

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 101425Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2615

INFO USMISSIONEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5424

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC ITEM: NATO CONSULTATIONS ON OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE

REF: A) STATE 217091

B) USNATO 5329

C) EC BRUSSELS 6195

1. THE MISSION IS TRANSMITTING SEPTEL THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE'S REVISED DRAFT MANDATE FOR A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE DRAFT MANDATE ON NOVEMBER 14.

2. THIS DRAFT MANDATE CALLS FOR A BRIEF REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, TO PERMIT EARLY COUNCIL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE OIL CRISIS ON THE ALLIANCE. THE DRAFT MANDATE PROVIDES FOR EMPHASIS IN THE REPORT ON THE SECURITY AND INTERNAL COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE. THE REPORT WOULD USE, AND NOT DUPLICATE, THE WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ON OIL.

3. I AM CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS IN THE COUNCIL ON A SUBJECT AS VITAL FOR THE ALLIANCE AS OIL. THE ALLIES HAVE UNDERGONE A PERIOD OF SEVERE MUTUAL RECRIMINATION, WHICH ORIGINATED IN DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS OF NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF OIL SUPPLIES. I AGREE FULLY WITH THE REASONING IN EC BRUSSELS 6195 ON NATO CONSULTATIONS ON OIL. ALTHOUGH OIL IS AN ECONOMIC ISSUE
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ON WHICH OECD HAS DONE CONSIDERABLE WORK, IT IS ALSO A SECURITY ISSUE ON WHICH NATO HAS WORK TO DO.

4. NATO CONSIDERATION OF OIL AT THE COUNCIL LEVEL WOULD REQUIRE

A BRIEF REPORT TO FOCUS NAC DISCUSSION. THIS IS WHY THE COUNCIL DIRECTED THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TO DRAFT A MANDATE FOR SUCH A REPORT. HOWEVER, STATE 217091 WILL REQUIRE ME TO OPPOSE IN THE NAC ANY ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT, NO MATTER WHAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.

5. I TRUST THAT WASHINGTON WILL RELAX THE GUIDANCE IN STATE 217091 TO PERMIT THE U.S. TO APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A N ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT WITH A VIEW TOWARD EARLY NAC CONSIDERATION. IF WASHINGTON HAS PROBLEMS WITH THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE, PERHAPS IT CAN SUGGEST IMPROVEMENTS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR NOVEMBER 14 NAC ITEM ON THE DRAFT MANDATE FOR A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05424
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 12/31/79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731165/abqcedfr.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) STATE 217091 B) USNATO 5329 C) EC BRUSSELS 6195
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAC ITEM: NATO CONSULTATIONS ON OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, NATO
To: STATE INFO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005